

Malcolm Profile

Malcolm is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Lincoln just off of Highway 34. Malcolm is slightly hilly with a small amount of floodplain along the south edge of town. Malcolm has two distinct parts of town – the older southeast part with older homes, the commercial area and gravel roads; and the newer northwest portion with paved roads, sidewalks, and the town's schools. Malcolm, along with Waverly, is unique in having its schools located in town. Malcolm is located midway between two State Recreation Areas; Pawnee Lake which is three miles south and Branched Oak Lake which is three miles north. Both of these facilities have paved access from Malcolm.

Malcolm is close enough to Lincoln to make it an easy drive for commuters who work in Lincoln. The village is one of the few that has its schools in town. Malcolm also has a small grocery store. There is ample park space with a sports association that organizes youth activities, three churches, a reception hall, and a very popular barbeque restaurant. Streets in the newer part of town are paved and in good condition. The sewer plant has been recently enhanced and has the capacity for additional connections.

Malcolm holds an annual street dance and a car show which provides funding for parks programs. The nearby lakes benefit the store and restaurant in particular and are also the site of High School Cross Country District meets and annual hunting dog trials. School students participate in some limited volunteer work and there is a gardening club that does some volunteer work in town as well.

Malcolm can generally get enough volunteers together for the community activities. The village board typically runs a full ballot although in the past there have been some times where people had to be recruited to run. The Planning Commission is currently full and the Malcolm Youth Sports Association has a full board as well.

Malcolm's Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2007 and has a good discussion of the direction Malcolm residents want to take for economic development, visual corridor enhancement, town image, historic preservation, and other topics. Malcolm has not experienced a great deal of development over the past 10 years. The store is relatively stable and the restaurant is busy enough to be in need of an expansion. In addition, the old school building on the east side of town has been repurposed into reception space, a machine shop, and some storage units. There have been discussions of other uses which might be appropriate for this large building. There is also an older structure formerly home to the Branched Oak Inn, a one-time popular restaurant and reception facility, which has been abandoned for several years. The community has attempted to work with the owners to see what can be done about getting an active business back in the building, but that has so far been unsuccessful. There was a great deal of residential development in the 1970s and 80s in the northwest part of town, but since then residential development has mostly taken the form of a few acreage developments in the 1-mile etj of Malcolm. There is a perception, shared by other towns, that the owners of agricultural property surrounding Malcolm are not willing to sell and additional residential development will be difficult.